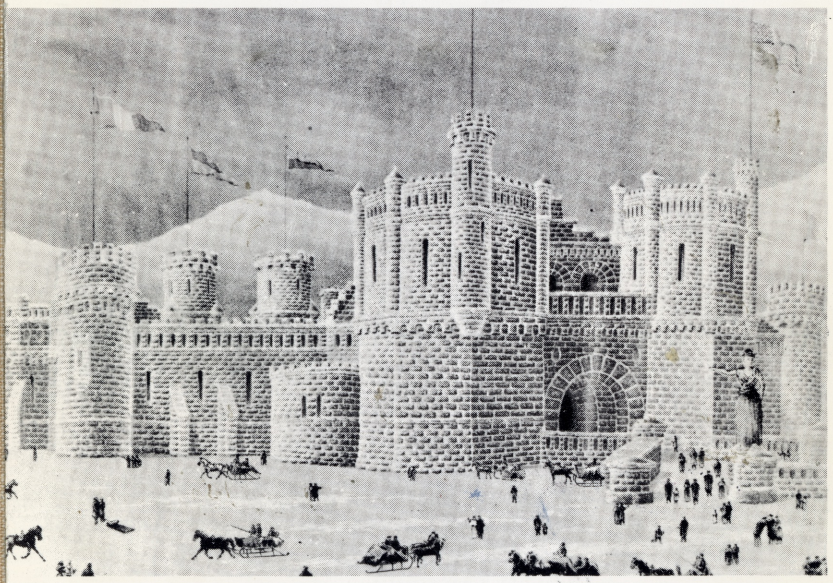
KING PLEASURE REIGNED IN 1896



The Story of the Fabulous Leadville Ice Palace

by

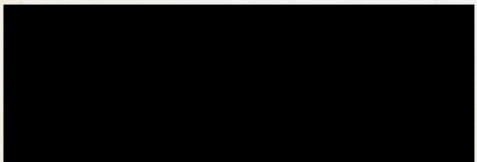
RENE L. COQUOZ

KING PLEASURE REIGNED IN 1896

This booklet proudly
dedicated to the memory of
Bertha J. Coquoz

"KING PLEASURE REIGNED IN 1896"

Copyright 1969 By Rene L. Coquoz



KING PLEASURE REIGNED IN 1896

The Story of the Fabulous Leadville Ice Palace

by

RENE L. COQUOZ

JOHNSON PUBLISHING COMPANY
Boulder, Colorado

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am grateful to the Leadville Herald Democrat for access to their early day newspaper files for making this story possible and to Miss Olivia Reichle for reproduction and loan of pictures of the Leadville Ice Palace.

Also, my sincere thank you to the Denver Public Library for other historial pictures of the Ice Palace.

I am also grateful to my daughter, Evelyn L. Berthod, for her help in re-writing and editing this booklet.

Rene L. Coquoz

Author's Note: A story of the Leadville Ice Palace appeared in the hard book cover of "The Early Years of Colorado" in 1965. However, additional research which was conducted gives this story a more complete history of the Ice Palace. Also, pictures did not appear in the hard book which do appear in this booklet.

Thank You

F784
L4
C5

3484

FOREWORD

With the discovery of gold in the vicinity of Denver, Idaho Springs, Central City, Boulder and other locations from 1859 and on, prospectors drifted into the South Park region and up through the Arkansas Valley.

When a small group of prospectors arrived in California Gulch in 1859, the present site of Leadville, Colorado, it was merely a huge forest consisting of pine trees, brush, willows, inhabited only by wild animals. During the summer months, Indian tribes used the area as recreational grounds.

It was not until 18 years later that fabulous silver discoveries were made. Leadville was founded in 1878. The forest began to slowly disappear as homes were constructed. As early pictures have revealed, stumps from five to six feet high were around the homes, but eventually they too were removed. In 1860, no one ever realized that in the hills surrounding the town, there were vast fortunes to be dug up from the earth.

In 1870, Leadville was almost an impossibility, but its magical powers were yet to come. By 1878, destiny began to occur. There was no stopping—some men were made rich in a matter of 24 hours.

Thus the birth of Leadville actually started in 1878. It was the dawn of the first civilization, not only in the town itself, but also that of the New West. The early years of Leadville appear in the annals of the various history books. Silver then was $1.20 an ounce. The out-put was from one hundred to two hundred tons of ore carrying from two hundred to one thousand ounces of silver, and this could be taken out of one mine in 24 hours.

The excitement sent the blood tingling through the veins of the most rugged prospectors of that time. There were such mines as the Little Pittsburg, Lee, Crysolite, Dunkin, Matchless, Maid of Erin and a host of others. The migration from 1879 and for some years totaled to the thousands in a month. By 1880, the population was from 30,000 to 40,000.

In 1879, Leadville produced $10,334,000 in minerals; in 1880, $15,096,000; in 1881, $13,171,000 and in 1882, $17,132,000. By the end of 1894, more than two hundred million dollars worth of different ores were taken from the eastern side of the city.

With the drop in silver prices in the mid-eighties, mines had to go to greater depths into the earth with much added expense. Then came the worst—the restless Neptune of the underground lakes suddenly unleased millions of gallons of water into the shafts causing considerable damage to machinery and shafts.

By 1890 it appeared that Leadville was due to become a ghost town as happened to many towns in Colorado. The first epoch was in 1860—gold. It's duration was short lived. In 1878, the second epoch arrived—silver. Then in 1894, the third epoch arrived—gold again, with millions from the Little Jonny mine alone.

But Leadville had a recession from the latter eighties on, and when the winter of 1895 arrived, businessmen were still trying to loosen the shackles from its death like grip.

During a casual conversation one evening, a group of mining men and businessmen began to talk about a winter carnival. The conversation that followed was that the city had really never done anything of great interest for its citizens. The group agreed that they should do something unique, original and impressive that the people could be proud of. Thus, the idea budded and blossomed into the Crystal Carnival and Ice Palace.

In a matter of a few weeks, the idea gradually began to take shape and form, conceived by the imagination of man. All agreed that it would have to be magnificent in every detail and would have to be something that never before had been attempted by man on such a large scale. It would be greater than the ones constructed in Moscow, Montreal and St. Paul. Along side of the Leadville Ice Palace, they would be dwarfs in comparison. The site selected was on Capitol Hill, between the 400 block and 500 block on West Seventh Street and would extend for the entire block in width—five acres in all.

The only means of transportation at that time was by railroad. Leadville was being served by The Denver and Rio Grande, The Colorado Midland and The Denver and South Park. All roads at the time were not in operation during the winter months, and even if they had been, there were still no automobiles. Leadville was determined to have a winter of gaiety, laughter and happiness—the first in 18 years.

Imagine a palace of ice blocks, heated to a comfortable temperature, with the exception of the skating rink which was glass enclosed along the promenade, 180 feet in length and 80 feet in width. Here people could watch the skaters waltz by on the shining floor of a smooth layer of ice.

Two hundred and fifty men were employed to erect the palace and to cut the blocks of ice. Work proceeded on a 24 hour basis. When the Ice Palace would be completed, at each turn of lighting, whether day or night or under electric lights, the ice castle would appear to take on a complete new look in dazzling new colors.

And who could ever forget the twenty musicians that comprised the Fort Dodge Cowboy Band that was engaged for the occasion and the embedded colored light bulbs in between the walls of the palace producing colors of radiant effects.

Thus, the following is the story of the Leadville Ice Palace.

LEADVILLE'S FABULOUS ICE PALACE

The following poem appeared in the original "First Official Souvenir" prepared for the Leadville Crystal Carnival, 1896:

On the rock riven ramp of the mountains
With the gleam of a gem of great price,
From the deep, frozen heart of the fountains,
Is builded the Palace of Ice.

Of the beams, from the Northern Lights, shifting,
Of the diamonds that sparkle on snow,
Of the blue that the cloud films sweep, drifting,
Of the sunset's incarnadine glow;

Of the rubies that bead the wine chalice,
Of the gold-molten rays of the sun,
Of the rainbow - is reared the fair palace,
Damascened with pure silver, frost-spun.

Crystal clear shine its glittering towers,
All effulgent its icicled halls—
Frowning over, the icy keep lowers,
Steel-bright ramparts engirdle the walls.

Brave King Carnival marshals his legions—
With high courage and cunning device,
They march onward through storm-smitten regions,
And beleaguer the Palace of Ice.

Through the hail of barbed frost arrows stinging,
To the heart of the stronghold they win—
Dancing, shouting, exulting and singing,
Flushed with triumph, the victors throng in.

Down the snow fields toboggans are sweeping
Where the light snow-shoes silently go;
Mirth and Music their revels are keeping
As the swift skaters glide to and fro.

Merry, dazzling, the pageant of pleasure—
And the joy of the hour will suffice,
As the dancers shall trip a gay measure
In the halls of the Palace of Ice.

For when green-vestured Spring, too long banished,
Shall unfetter the close-prisoned streams,
We shall mourn our lost palace, then vanished,
To the far, sunset land of our dreams.

VIRGINIA DONAGUE McCLURG

ICE PALACE CONSTRUCTION STARTED

The Leadville Ice Palace, constructed in 1895-96, was known as an extravaganza the world over. Many regarded it as an architectural wonder of the world.

It all began on a mid-summer evening when a group of businessmen and mining men were discussing the recession of the business conditions and silver mining due to the declining prices of silver. One of the men in the group stated that Quebec, Montreal and St. Paul had constructed an ice palace with blocks of ice. "Why not Leadville?" one of the men asked. It was then that the idea originated. The men believed that $5,000 would build an ice palace, but that was greatly miscalculated. Nevertheless, $5,000 was a lot of money in 1895.

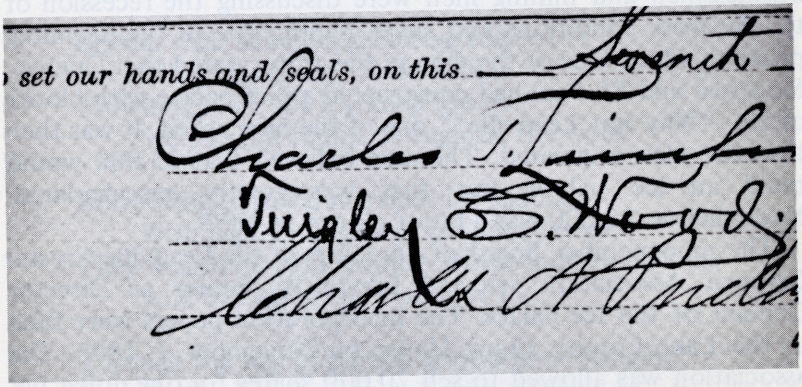
The nine-member Board of Directors of the Leadville Crystal Carnival Association selected Edwin W. Senior as Director General of the Ice Palace. The incorporation papers were filed in the Lake County Court House on November 7, 1895. The association was allowed to sell 20,000 shares for one dollar per share. It was to continue for a period of five years. The nine Directors appointed were S.D. Nicholson, J.H. Weddle, C.N. Priddy, J.W. Smith, Dr. D.H. Dougan, C.T. Limberg, John F. Campion, Goerge L. 'Abbe and J.J. Brown. Officers were: Tingley S. Wood, President; Charles T. Limberg, Vice-President; W.L. Temple, Secretary and F.X. Hogan, Treasurer.

The September 29 Herald Democrat stated: "The money expended for material and labor will be paid by our own people, who in turn will keep it in circulation. If built upon the idea now prevalent of making the structure permanent with regard to the roof, dancing floor and skating rink, not only will it be for the winter, but for each summer hereafter, with the only added expense each year for the ice, leaving the summer months for a beautiful pavilion to be used for public meetings, balls and picnics."

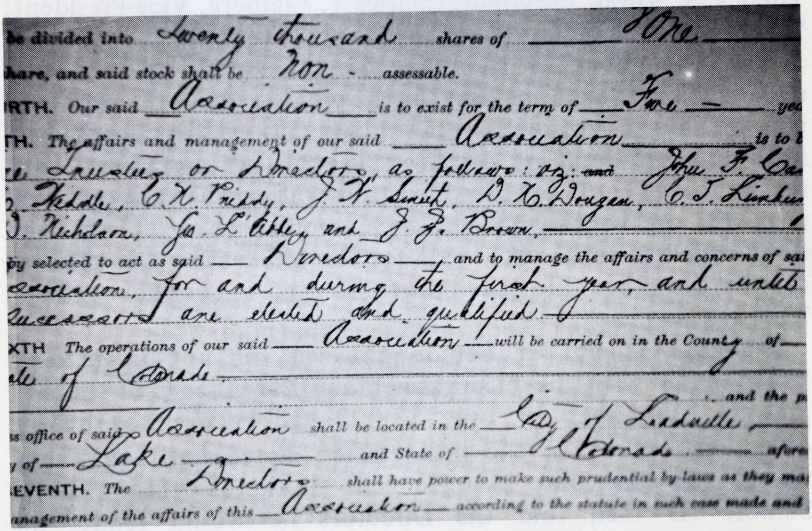
Director General Mr. Senior, however, did not prove to be too popular with the businessmen and the citizens of the city and by September 29, only $3,000 had been raised by the committee. Many of the businessmen stated flatly that they would not contribute a single cent to the association under Senior. He then told the Directors he would render his resignation if it would mean the success of the Ice Palace.

The Directors decided to let Senior go on, at least to see what

would actually happen. Then, on October 26 the Herald Democrat reported: "Senior carved on the Ice Palace enterprise as far as it lay in his power. Farther he could not go. When he got to the $4,000 limit, he stuck fast. The people would not budge any further. Whipping, slashing and scolding did no good. A new driver was demanded."


set our hands and seals, on this

Signatures as they appeared on Incorporation Papers recorded at Lake County Court House on November 7, 1895.


be divided into Twenty thousand shares of One

hare, and said stock shall be Non - assessable.

IRTH. Our said Association is to exist for the term of Five years

TH. The affairs and management of our said Association is to

Directors, as follows: viz: and John F.

Nichols, C. K. Priddy, J. F. Sunett, D. K. Dougan, C. J. Lindsey

D. Richdale, Jas. L. Libby and J. F. Brown,

by selected to act as said Directors and to manage the affairs and concerns of sa

Association, for and during the first year, and until

successors are elected and qualified.

XTH The operations of our said Association will be carried on in the County of

ado

s office of said Association shall be located in the City of Leadville

y of Lake and State of Colorado

EVENTH. The Directors shall have power to make such prudential by laws as they ma

anagement of the affairs of this Association according to the statute in such case made and

Incorporation papers with the names of the nine Directors. Document reads, "To exist for the term of five years". November 7, 1895.

TINGLEY S. WOOD APPOINTED

Senior, however, had resigned about a week previous to the above publication and the Board approached Tingley S. Wood, President of the Association, to take over the position of Director General. He accepted. Wood was a pioneer mining man, gifted in architectural design. On October 26 the Board of Directors held a meeting in the Vendome Hotel meeting room along with Mr. Wood. At that meeting, Mr. Wood presented to the Directors some of the most fantastic ideas regarding the construction of the Ice Palace which were immediately accepted. He told the group that he would begin sketching his plans of the palace and that in his opinion it would require at least $15,000 to build. However, as this story continues, you will see that the total was much higher.

At another meeting of the Directors and Mr. Wood on October 30, the finance committee reported a total of $8,000 in the fund. A discussion was held on ways to raise the money, and after some talk, James J. Brown stated, "Gentlemen, it is useless to talk longer until we see some money in sight. I subscribe $500." "Put me down for $500 also," said Wood. "I subscribe the same amount," said Campion. All of the others put up the same amount.

The following day, a total of $15,000 had been collected and this proved very encouraging. The finance committee, however, stated that they must have $20,000. On November 2 at another meeting, it was reported that a total of $17,000 was then in the fund. Wood told the Herald Democrat: "If the people want a $20,000 Ice Palace, they must come up smiling with their subscriptions before Tuesday so that the architect, Mr. C. Joy from St. Paul, can draw his plans. He must know how much money he has to build on."

Mr. Wood engaged W.W. Coble, a contractor, for the frame work of the castle. The November 12 Herald Democrat reported: "Director General Wood is moving heaven and earth and the remains of the ancient forest that stood on Capitol Hill to make room for the Ice Palace."

EIGHTEEN TEAMS OF HORSES

On November 28 there were eighteen teams of horses and wagons hauling ice to the palace site via the Ellsmere Road, making four trips daily. Up to that time, a total of 180 tons had been hauled and Mr. Wood stated that about 5,000 tons would be required before the palace would be completed. Seventy five men were employed on the palace grounds and before it was completed, a total of 250 men were employed.

The roof and trusses were supported by heavy timbers so that no weight lay on the blocks of ice. The ice cakes were placed on the outside of the supports, which caused the belief that the skeleton building could be of a permanent construction and used in the summer months as well. These plans, however, failed. No lumber was required for the skating rink, and there were only three sides in the ballroom as a glass partition separated the two rooms. A total of 182,000 feet of lumber was required for the skeleton frame of the building. The ice blocks were laid one on top of the other and frozen together by pouring water over them and freezing the cakes together. The process was almost about the same as working with bricks and mortar. The temperature sometimes went as low as 25 degrees below zero. As time went on, it was decided to put on a night shift, and a total of seventeen arc lights and poles were installed around the grounds. Hundreds of persons came to watch the progress being made by the workmen at the site. All were amazed at the huge building being constructed with ice blocks.

TOO MANY OBSTACLES

The palace was to have been completed by Christmas Day, but too many obstacles stood in the way. First, on December 8, a chinook wind retarded the work of the Ice Palace and it was threatened by the warm winds. Then there was a shortage of ice and a shortage of horses to haul the ice. Finally, the Ice Palace was constructed so elegantly that $20,000 failed to even come close to the construction cost. Mr. Wood then supplied his own personal funds and plans went ahead for the opening on New Year's Day. A gala celebration was planned by the committee.

OFFICIAL OPENING

Although the doors of the Ice Palace were opened on January 1, the official opening was held on January 3, 1896 with a huge parade. The parade was long and consisted of various organizations and clubs devoted to winter sports. There were skiers, curling, toboggans, skating, hockey and many other clubs of the city, all attired in a beautiful variety of assorted colors that added sparkle to the parade. A large number of musical bands also participated, but one that was outstanding was the Fort Dodge Cowboy Band that played in all parts of the country. A large bass drum, carried by four donkey's, was a gift to the people of Leadville from the City of Pueblo. The men who had constructed the Ice Palace carried a large banner which read, "We helped build the Ice Palace". They also carried the various tools used in the construction. The official opening parade was called "Denver Days". People came from all parts of the country for the occasion. Leading the parade were Governor McIntire and staff, Lieutenant-Governor Brush and Mayor McMurray of Denver. In the party with the Governor were Mayor S.D. Nicholson of Leadville and council members. As time went on, Aspen, Cripple Creek, Pueblo, Colorado Springs and other cities were honored in the same way.

Although the Ice Palace was opened, it was far from being completed. At the time, the Herald Democrat and the Evening Chronicle told the world of the fabulous Leadville Ice Palace.

The January 3 Evening Chronicle had this to say: "The world moves. Leadville takes a leap. The Rocky Mountains rocked in the lap of the ages. A burst of splendor and magnificence unmatched and unequaled in the annals of man. The sturdy delivers the gigantic granite ribbed mountains and relax their hold on the grasping strength and link hands in the loving joys of pleasure."

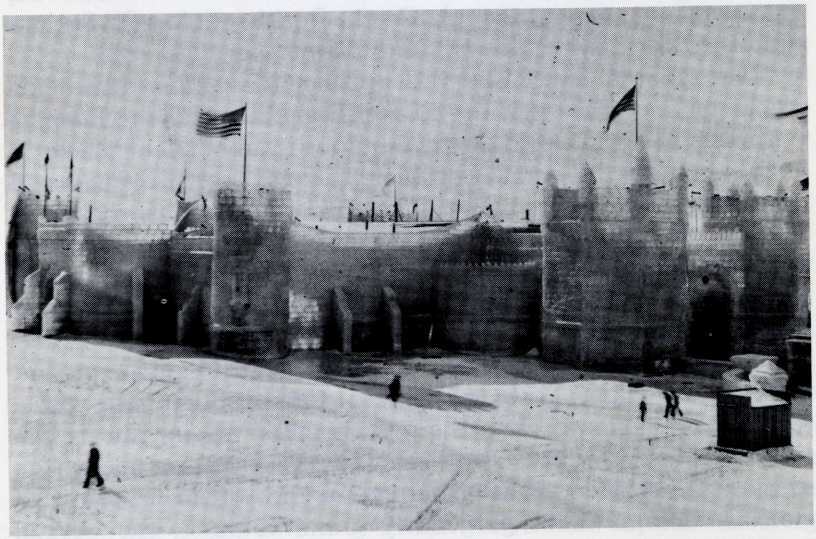
"The shrunken grasp of greed, forgotten for the time, expands its hands to clasp the joys it would attain. The frozen rivers yielded their crystal covering to please the eye and soften every sigh. Most glorious vision ever seen by man makes life a glorious dream. Most gorgeously grand sublime, the Crystal Palace illumes the night and cheers the path of every struggling man. Leadville called it the Winter Carnival."

"There was warmth of a kindly color in the cubes of ice that thrilled the soul like rainbow hues on a spring morning. The Crystal Carnival inaugural was opened with a huge parade. No celebration ever was larger and gayer. Never were the people so enthusiastic as they were on New Year's Day of 1896."

"The Cloud City that for forty years had been buried in the snows of winter and engulfed in its depression of almost perpetual snows bustling out into a halo of Carnival pleasures enraptured in a blanket of snow."

THE TREASURE LADEN HILLS

The palace was located on top of Capitol Hill, overlooking the treasure-bearing hills where the mines had and were still producing vast fortunes in minerals. The richest mine at the time was the Little Jonny Mine where large fortunes of gold were found. To the west were the mighty mountains of Elbert and Massive, while to the east was the Mosquito Range. The castle was planned on a magnificent scale, never before attempted by man.



Ice Palace consisted of 5 acres of ground. The length was 420 feet and required 5,000 tons of ice to complete.

FUN FOR ALL

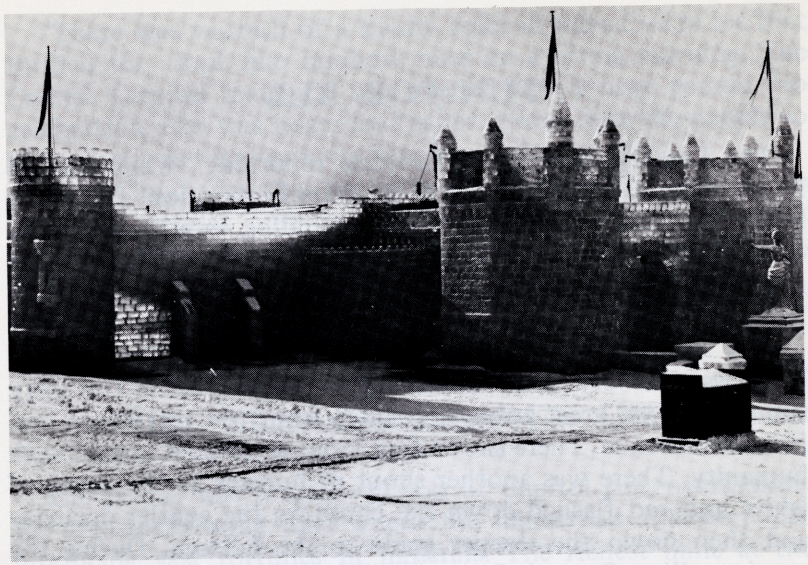
The January 4 Evening Chronicle reported: "While the Ice Palace is a beautiful sight, it is far from completion. Had there been no unavoidable delays, the building would had been completed by Christmas Day, but Director General Wood could not regulate the weather, or the shortage of horses to haul the ice to the site."

The January 5 Evening Chronicle reported: "They're off. That was the cry from thousands of persons from the lofty summit of the great toboggan slides from the Ice Palace and Harrison Avenue. There shot a frail looking ice-boat loaded with humanity. There was another shout of hurrahs as the streak of white and red flashed down the chute on the gentler declivity and then down the steeper grade to the bottom. During the evenings, West Seventh Street is brilliantly illuminated from the Vendome Hotel to the Palace, as nothing was spared in lighting."

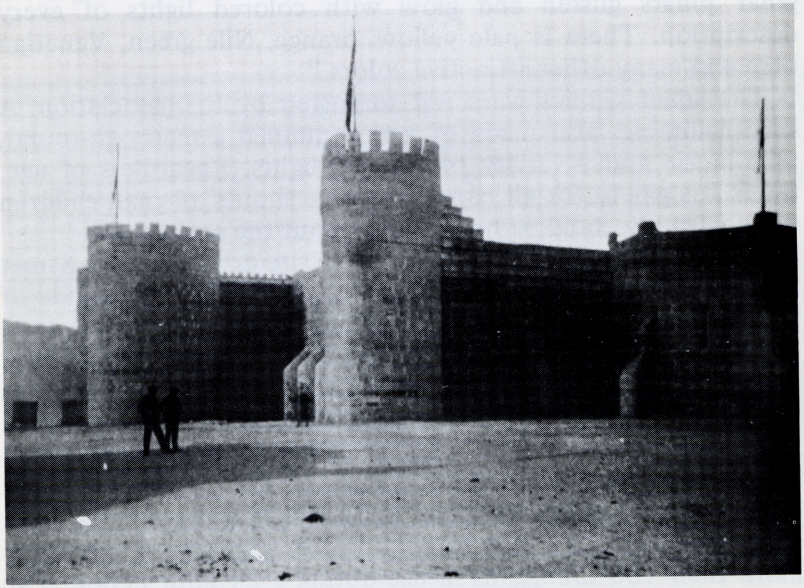
The Evening Chronicle further reported: "To see the rink at night is to see the most beautiful part of the Crystal Palace. The great pillars glisten and glow with colored lights of every description. There is pale yellow, orange, Nile green, Venetian blue and many other attractive colors."

The small kiddies were not forgotten by the association. A small building, also made of ice, contained a merry-go-round, plus music and a variety of colored lights. Regardless of age, there was gaiety for all concerned. The shouts of small children filled with joy could be heard throughout the entire area.

The toboggan slide from the palace site down Seventh Street was 900 feet in length, while the course on the south side of Seventh Street from Harrison Avenue was 1,200 feet in length. Each of the courses turned south on Spruce Street and ran a considerable distance towards the south. Each course was equipped with a ramp 50 feet high to give the toboggans a good start. A number of 2,000 candle-power lights were installed along the courses at 100 foot intervals. Each toboggan would leave at half minute intervals. Each course was equipped with comfortable waiting rooms and lunch counters. There were more than 100 toboggans in use during a 24 hour period. The cost of the courses, including the toboggans, was estimated to be $2,500.



Exterior of the Ice Palace. Octagonal shape towers were 90 feet high and 40 feet in diameter.



The sun shining on the two towers while the walls are shaded and appear dark. A sudden change of light and the lighting is reversed.

COLORADO PRESS DAY

January 16, 1896 was a big night in Leadville—this was the evening when the Colorado Press Club held one of the gayest affairs ever witnessed. It was the Leadville Ice Palace Colorado Press Club Day.

Nearly fifty newspaper and magazine publishers and members attended the evening of fun—many were from other states.

The Colorado Press contingent arrived early in the morning of January 16. They were met at the railroad station and escorted to the site of the Ice Palace, led by the Fort Dodge Cowboy Band. They made a tour of the Ice Palace and then were taken to various hotels in the city.

A few hours later, the Colorado Press Club met in the rooms of the Leadville Press Club at 425 Harrison Avenue and, after the routine business meeting was conducted, a resolution was drawn up which stated in part: "The Leadville Ice Palace is the most beautiful sight ever gazed upon by man—it's incredible impact will forever be remembered by those who have had the privilege of seeing this fantastic creation".

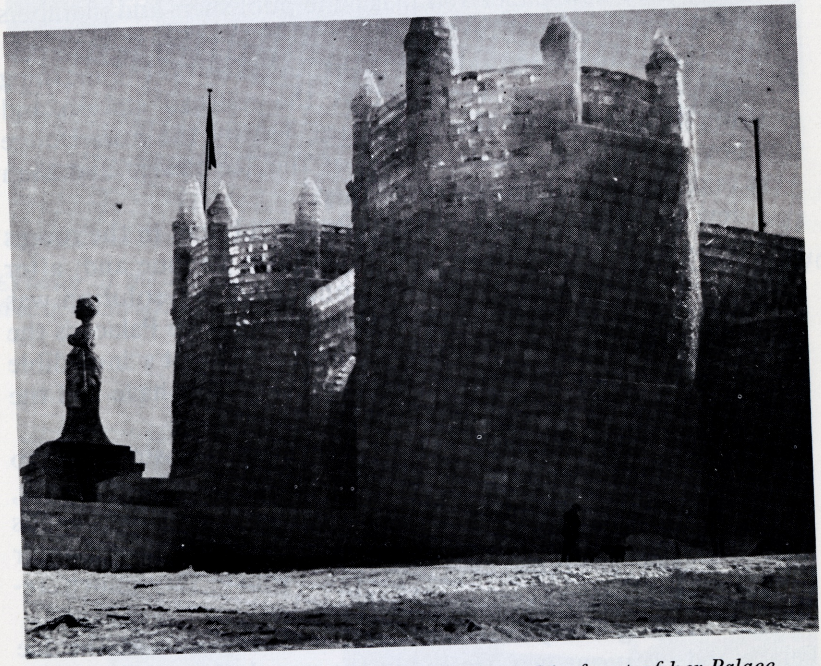
In the afternoon, Harrison Avenue was transferred into something very much like the Mardi Gras—lavish costumes, colorful Indians, gay clowns and a number of five bands enlivened the throngs. At one point, Prospectors and their burros staged a "Prospector's Revue" which very much resembled a Broadway extravaganza.

That evening everyone went to the Grand Ball at the Ice Palace and everyone was dressed in the gay clothes of that time. Leadville's two newspapers, the Herald Democrat and the Evening Chronicle, were well represented by two charming little girls—the Misses Buena Alverson and Theo Austin. Miss Alverson wore a costume made from the lithographic Herald Democrat Ice Palace Edition and Miss Austin's creation was made from the colorful Ice Palace Edition of the Evening Chronicle. Both girls wore crowns made of sugar-loaf hats. Mrs. Swanson of Leadville, however, was judged the winner of the best costume and was awarded a gold medal.

The five-mile skating race was won by Willard Riggs who was awarded a diamond-studded gold medal which was later engraved thus: "Willard Riggs - January 16, 1896 - L.P.C. Lead-

ville Ice Palace Celebration - Colorado - Five Mile Championship - Colorado Press Club".

The entire story of the Ice Palace appeared in a large number of publications when publishers and reporters returned to their homes.



A profile of "Lady Leadville" standing proud in front of her Palace.

STOCK BROKERS

"The Stock Brokers of the State" was perhaps the biggest event that occurred during the Winter Carnival Days. The January 27 Herald Democrat reported: "The Stock Brokers of the State own the town and all in it. Couple of lively bouts among the animals with the lambs in the middle. Two hundred shares of stock transferred at the big call at the night session. Nearly a thousand people from the mountains and the plains enjoy a day of rare unrivalled pleasure. It was the visit of the Colorado Mining Brokers and there were large delegations from Cripple Creek, Denver, Colorado Springs, Victor, Pueblo and other locations. The men who keep the stocks moving up and down are a lively and jovial set of men, full of spirit and energy."

Most all of the business houses in the city were beautifully decorated during the carnival days and many featured a large picture of the Ice Palace in their place of business. The Carbonate National Bank displayed $150,000 in gold that came from the Little Jonny Mine. Each brick weighed from 50 to 60 pounds and was worth from six to eight thousand dollars. For awhile it appeared that the stock brokers were going to buy it all—but it was all in fun.

One of the many stuffed animal exhibits. The realism was fantastic and beautiful.

SCULPTURES

Around the Ice Palace were placed life sized sculptures depicting the life of the prospectors as they trampled over the hills in search of riches. This was done by snow, then frozen and water added which produced a brilliant shining sparkle to the sculpture. There was the prospector with his burro, loaded down with supplies going into the hills. Two other prospectors were rock drilling as it was done then with a large hammer and a drill. Two other prospectors were working on a windlass, so realistic it appeared that they were actually posing. There was the prospector who struck it rich and sold his mine for a fortune and the prospector who was looking for a grubstake so he could keep on digging.

Within the walls of the Ice Palace were a large number of exhibits loaned to the Leadville Crystal Carnival by various artists, manufacturers, merchants and the three railroads serving the area. A painting called "The Midland Plaisance" was painted on a 20,000 square feet piece of canvas. There was also a working model of a steam locomotive on display.

Taxidermists prepared animals, depicting the wild animals of Colorado and they were displayed in glass and ice enclosed small rooms.

Also encased in the blocks of ice were various assorted wild flowers in a large variety of colors throwing off a resemblance of rainbow hues after a rainstorm. There were also a variety of fruits encased in ice blocks. The brilliant colors presented a sight that no one had ever seen before.

THOUSANDS OF PERSONS CAME HERE

All three railroads serving Leadville were compelled to add extra passenger cars to their scheduled trains to accommodate the crowds entering and leaving the city. All had fabulous rates, and to give one example, the Rio Grande had return fares from any place in Utah for $12. All trains were met at the stations and escorted downtown or to the Ice Palace with a band leading the way.

ICE PALACE DESCRIPTION

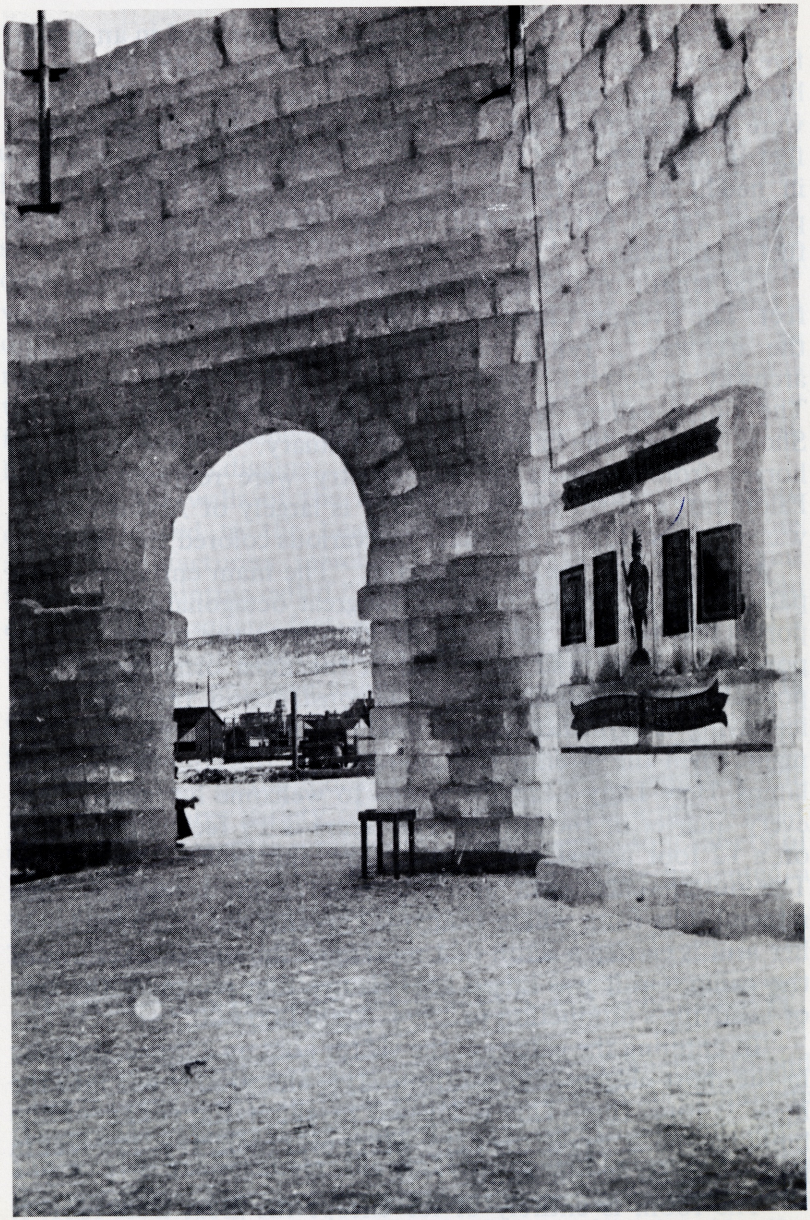
The outer walls of the Ice Palace were enclosed in an area of five acres. The building required more than 5,000 tons of ice blocks before completion. The main towers on the north front were of octagonal shape and measured 90 feet in height and 40 feet in diameter. The south towers of the building were 60 feet in height and 30 feet in diameter. The corner towers of the palace were a circular type, 45 feet above the ground and 20 feet in diameter.

The length of the south side to the north entrance was 325 feet. The Evening Chronicle reported that to this must be added the archway, a riding gallery—60 by 80 feet, and a 27 foot archway on Seventh Street, making a total of 420 feet in length. The riding gallery was also the scene of the fabulous Horse Show held in the latter part of January. Various breeds of horses from all parts of the country were represented. The Palomino, a breed whose ancestry is largely of Arabian stock, was indeed a sight to see under the various colored spotlights.

We quote the Herald Democrat: "The main entrance to the palace is at the north between the great octagonal towers. This portal will be used daily by the visitors to the palace. It is of ponderous build and decorated in the most ornamental style possible in the material used in its construction, the translucent ice giving it brilliance in the bright sunlight of the day or at night when the interior is illuminated by the countless electric lamps. Here Lady Leadville stands to welcome her guests from every quarter of the nation. The figure is 19 feet tall and rests on a 12 foot pedestal. It is sculptured and built entirely of ice. The outstretched right arm and hand point toward the rich mineral hills from where Leadville's wealth was taken, and over her arm is carried a scroll that represents the smelting returns of the camp. On it was raised gold figures that represent the sum of Leadville's production to 1894—$200,000,000."

"In entering the gateway, the visitor goes up a broad stairway in the most elegant and exquisite style and soon enters into the huge skating rink. This is located in about the center of the building and is larger than any other ever built. It is 190 feet in length and 80 feet in width."

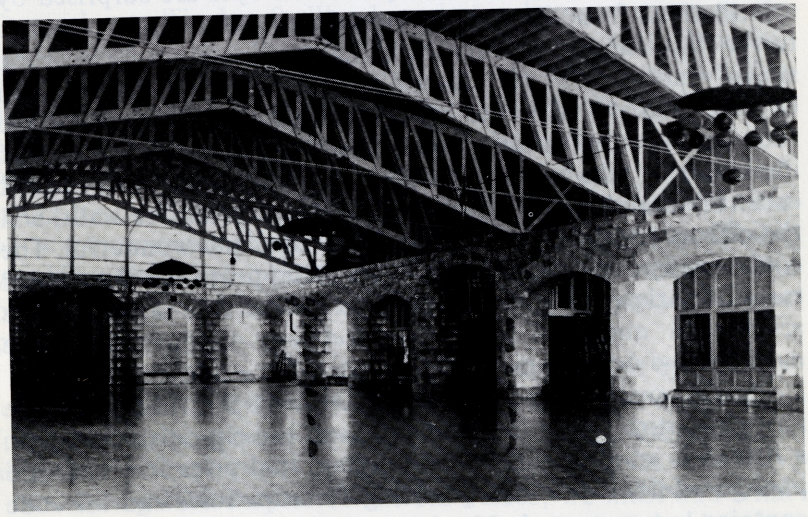
"The room is entirely of ice except the great truss roof. It extends from the north to the south wall on the main building and is enclosed on the sides with walls of pillars and arches, the



The architecture used in the building of the Ice Palace was Remarkable. Note exhibit on wall.

pillars are set 15 feet apart. These pillars or columns of ice are one of the most novel and attractive features of the palace. They are 5 feet in diameter and so built with incandescent electric lamps placed in the center, the light radiating from them in all directions. The lighting is also produced from the ends, where lamps are embedded in the walls and over the arches, that are resplendent by the incandescents shining through the thin slabs of transparent ice with which they are veneered."

"To the east was the ballroom, 50 feet wide and 80 feet long. To the right of the skating rink was the auxiliary ballroom and dining room of the same dimensions. Each of the ballrooms were equipped with resting rooms described as "incredible" and with maid and valet service. The resting lounges were equipped with large easy chairs and beautiful colored divans. From there the people could watch the skaters as they streaked across the ice rink in all of its variety of colors. The rooms were glass enclosed and heated for the benefit of the viewers.



Interior of skating rink. Measurements were 180 feet in length and 80 feet in width.

FROM THE ORIGINAL SOUVENIR BOOKLET

The following is reprinted from the First Annual Official Souvenir Booklet, published in 1895 by the Leadville Crystal Carnival Association:

"The splendor of the dawn illumines the structure, and as the blaze of glory bursts from the east, the entire palace of crystal gleams with the lustre of the day. Could fairer sight be pictured that Leadville's beauteous structure in the early hours of morning!"

"But when the day is done and darkness spreads its sable wings, the palace as a structure of solid ice seems to disappear, and in its place, as though by the hand of a magician, emerges a weird and spectral structure that appears as different from the one which can be seen by daylight as it is possible for the imagination to conceive. The lord of the day fades away behind the Western hills. The great palace, so dazzling in the brightness of the sun, again becomes chill and cold, of that glittering steel color which makes the structure so frigid in its general appearance. But the shadows deepen and as dusk elves gather from here and there, on battlement and bastion, the forces of science begin to play and the spectator's eyes are surprised by scintillations from diamond points of electricity. From tower to turret flash the great white search lights, far and near across the snowy ranges of the distant hills. The whole scene soon becomes radiant with the glow of electricity. On each of the four towers the intense white light rushes its billows of illumination. The walls themselves seem all aglow with radiant orbs. Thousands of these lights are arranged in the ice walls, and the effects thus produced are most dazzling and wonderful. The cold reality of the frozen mass disappears in the grand transformation scene that takes place when the sable curtains are drawn and the spirits of electricity conjure from the darkness the marvelous display."

"Come, make merry with us, is Leadville's invitation. Come all ye pleasure lovers from far and near, the city is open to you; a firman is granted without the asking, that gives free and safe passage whither you will go. King Pleasure rules and his code contains but one word—Merriment. It is the law which governs the city for the carnival season."

EARLY THAW

Director General Wood, through long months of planning and operating the Ice Palace, had many heartaches and worries. On January 31, the Herald Democrat reported: "When warm weather threatened the palace, Mr. Wood from his own pocket purchased $5,000 worth of muslin to save the castle. He also paid out from his personal funds a total of $22,000. The truth of the matter is, the citizens of Leadville built half of the Ice Palace and Tingley S. Wood, as a citizen of Leadville, built the other half. He agreed to take care of the palace after the citizens raised $20,000, and he is keeping his word and not making an issue about it. However, he did not insure it against chinook winds and many weeks of unusually warm weather."

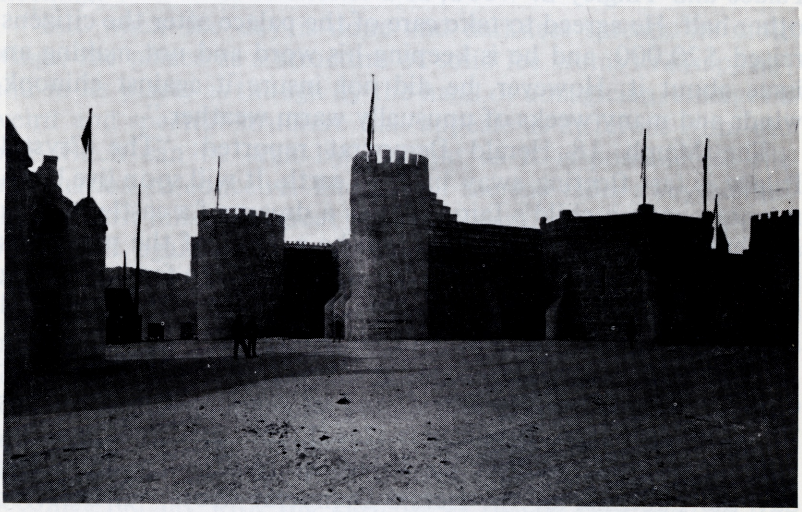
The March 18 Herald Democrat reported: "The Crystal Palace is fast fleeting away back to earth. It will soon live but a memory as in a child's fairy tale; as a dream of a castle built in air, but one more week and it will be a thing of the past. It is planned that March 28 will be the last day of the few remaining activities, which are few. A wire fence will be constructed around the palace, and it shall be closed forever."

The man responsible for the success of the Leadville Winter Carnival was Tingley S. Wood, and at a banquet given in his honor after the Ice Palace was closed, the question came up, "Would there be another Ice Palace in 1897?" The following day the publisher of the Herald Democrat wrote, "If Director General Wood had his way about it, he would blow the Ice Palace off the face of Capitol Hill, leveling the magnificent structure to the ground in a heap of ruins by one bombardment with cannon and sky-piercing pyrotechnics. This, he thinks, would be the proper ending for the most gorgeous and beautiful building ever erected in any age, of any material, by any people."

When Mr. Wood was confronted with the idea of erecting an ice palace with nearly all lumber frame, after the design of a fort at a small expense, he said, "Not if I have anything to do about it!"

In closing this chapter of the Ice Palace, we must add what we thought was well written and well described. Going back to March 10, the Herald Democrat wrote: "The effects of the

fire-works on Miner's Day, when the massive walls were baptized with red flamboyant curves of fire, and the turbulent rockets went hissing, sizzling, sousing through the heavens, belching bouquets of vari-colored lights, and the gentle-toned Roman candles sputtered it's spit-fire roseate hues modestly bowing its meek head in graceful rainbow tints, was a spectable so bewildering that a woman guest who viewed the exhibition from the third story of the Vendome Hotel, turned her face from it saying that it was too unearthly a vision for her eyes to gaze upon."



Evening shadows closing in, yet it sparkled like shining diamonds.

Merry skaters—some talking, others such as the small boy zooms over the ice.

ADVERTISEMENTS APPEARING IN OFFICIAL SOUVENIR

The following advertisements appeared in the First Official Souvenir printed in 1895: The Denver and Rio Grande R.R., The Omaha and Grant Smelting Co., The Philadelphia Smelting and Refining Co., The Globe Smelting and Refining Co., The Arkansas Valley Smelting Co., The Denver and South Park R.R., The Midland Terminal R.R., The Whim Co., The John G. Morgan Brokerage Co., The Colorado Midland R.R. Co., R. Douglas Crockery Co., The Bi-Metallic Smelting Co., The Colorado Smelting Co., Zang's Beer, The Capitol Hill Greenhouses, Williamson-Haffner Engraving, Marsh and Carter Printing, Boston and Colorado Smelting Co., Wm. Derry Tailor and Importer, The New St. James Hotel, The Union Smelting Co., Vendome Hotel, The Gold and Silver Extraction Co., American Zinc-Lead Smelter, New Mexico and Arizona Smelter, H. Rothberger Photographers, Colorado Iron Works, The Denver Clearing House Banks, Colorado Mining Stock Exchange, George Arthur Rice Bankers and Brokers, O'Keefe and Stockdorf Photographers, The Mecham Investment Co., Fraser and Chalmers Mining Machinery, The Denver Engineering Works, Knight Campbell Music Co., W.J. Chamberlin Sampling Works, The Denver Fire Clay Co., The Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., John W. Knox Jewelry, The Silver State Cigar Co., The M. Hyman Cigar and Importing Co., A.W. Meek and Co., The Kansas City Smelting and Refining Co., and The Florence and Cripple Creek R.R.

SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

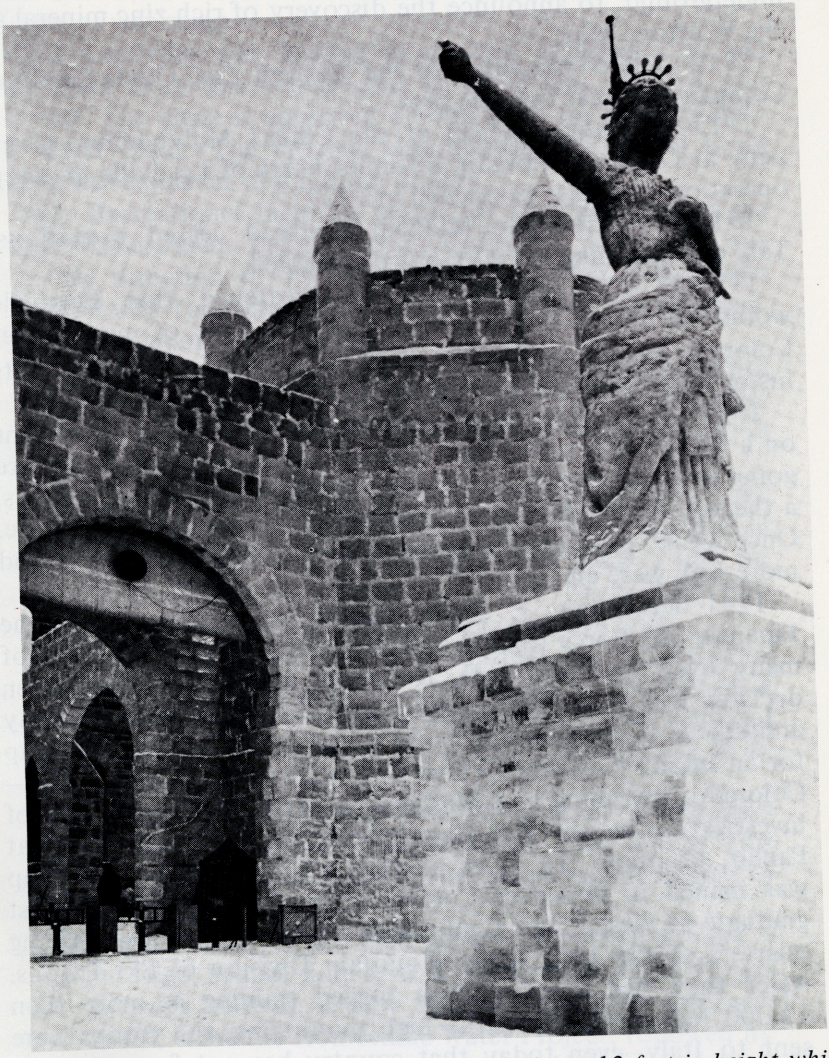
In doing research on the Leadville Crystal Carnival Ice Palace, it was stated that the skeleton frame of future ice palaces would be used for summer recreation as well. In the winter months ice blocks would be placed around the building, thence used for winter recreational sports. As stated earlier, 182,000 feet of lumber was used for the frame work and heavy trusses for the roofing. However, money problems, chinook winds in early December, plus an early spring discouraged the Association and very little was said of permanent frame building. In plain words, the matter was dropped.

Then too, nearly all of the men in the Association were mining men and there were rumblings of a coming strike, so these men were faced with two problems. As it happened, the strike presented much larger troubles than the Ice Palace.

The miners went out on strike in the summer of 1896. However, not all walked out as some continued to work and this resulted in serious trouble. A total of more than eight men were killed or murdered—mines were dynamited, burned and destroyed. It was not until Governor McIntire sent the Colorado Militia to Leadville that peace was restored in the community. Camp McIntire, where the Militia was camped, was where Westpark is located today.

Faced with mine problems, the subject of an annual Ice Palace in Leadville was dropped like a hot potato. Perhaps, if there had not been all the problems with the Ice Palace and no problems with the mines, it could have meant another story. There never has been any talk or plans of another Ice Palace to my knowledge, however, there is always the possibility that there will be another some time in the future.

The Denver Public Library Historical Dept. has many newspaper files describing the Ice Palace as well as a number of photographs. It is an ideal place to brouse around if one is a history buff.



"Lady Leadville" at the entrance. The pedestal was 12 feet in height while the statue was 19 feet in height. She is pointing towards the hills where more than $200,000,000 in minerals was the output up to 1894.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS AFTER 1900

January 11, 1911—An underground banquet, 1,000 feet underground, to announce the discovery of rich zinc mineral at the Wolftone Mine.

1912—The construction of the Western Zinc Oxide Smelting Company to treat the zinc ores.

1917—Operations began at the Climax Molybdenum Company at Climax, Colorado, 13 miles north of Leadville, (Ceased operations in 1924—re-opened in 1927).

1919—The Colorado Midland Railroad ceased operations. Talk of re-opening in 1920, but plans failed.

1929-33—The depression that threatened that Leadville would become a ghost town as was the case of many other Colorado towns. But in the same tradition of past years in its history, Leadville sprang back to life.

1934—The Climax Molybdenum Company started operations on a much larger scale. The company announced that they were going to build homes, recreational facilities, a hospital, schools, a theatre, a church, a large boarding house and a general store. Once again, prosperity was making a come-back as more and more men were employed.

1941—December 7, Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese Air Force causing considerable damage and the loss of many lives. President F.D. Roosevelt and the Congress then declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy. In 1942, the Army announced it was going to build a high altitude Training Camp for an infantry division. Three sites were under consideration—Colorado, Wyoming and Washington. After several months of investigation by the War Department, the site selected was at Pando, Colorado, 18 miles northwest of Leadville. The camp was named in honor of Colonel Irving Hale, Colorado's first graduate at West Point. Camp Hale was to become the training quarters of the 10th Army Mountain Division of Ski Troops. After they had received their rugged training at more than 12,000 feet elevation in the high mountains, the troops were sent to Italy—even today that country has not forgotten the invisible men in white traveling down the steep slopes of Italy's mountains at break-neck speeds, spreading fear and death to the enemy.

During the construction of Camp Hale, it was reported that between four to five thousand men and women were employed. Hundreds of trailers and their dwellers were parked within a

radius of 18 miles to the West, East, North and South. The camp was large enough to accommodate 15,000 men, 200 K-9 Units and 5,000 mules. In 1944 Camp Hale also became a prisoner of war camp.

1952—Leadville was lacking in modern facilities. The old sewer plant that was constructed in 1879 was obsolete and outdated. The citizens approved a bond issue for a completely new sewer plant. The citizens also approved a school bond totaling three-quarter of a million dollars.

1953—Recreational facilities began for the first time in the history in Leadville, Lake County, Colorado. The work was under the direction of Richard (Dick) Ferguson. The results were $200,000 for recreational facilities without a bond issue. Materials and labor were all donated.

1953—St. Vincent Hospital was condemned by State Health Authorities. A fund drive was started and the results were outstanding. A new one million dollar hospital was dedicated in 1958.

Constructed in the years of 1952 to 1958 were a new Lake County Court House, The Leadville Medical Clinic (the first in its history), a new B.P.O.Elks Building, a new bank, a new St. Mary's Parochial School Convent for the Nuns, two new subdivisions, new homes and various other construction.

1959—In January, Leadville was awarded the All America City Emblem for its progress in improvements. The award is given each year to a city by Look Magazine and The National Municipal League. Leadville was the second Colorado city to receive such an award.

1960—Climax announced that it would move all of its houses to Westpark subdivision near the Leadville City limits. This required three years to complete. The move was necessary to make more room for mining.

Also constructed after the 60's were a new High School, a new Junior High School and several elementary schools, new motels, shopping centers, a new theatre and other improvements. Finally, came the Homestake Water Project, followed by the Frying-Pan Arkansas Water Project by the U.S. Government. The cost will be more than $200,000,000. When completed, its recreational facilities could perhaps make Leadville and Lake County the "Little Switzerland" of the United States.

Leadville at one time, and not too long ago, was given the name of "The City With a Dirty Face"—a better title would be "THE CITY THAT REFUSED TO DIE".

MY HOME TOWN

Never thought I'd settle down,
Never more to roam.
Now I've found the place for me,
And this is my home town.

Cause my home town is the best,
It stands out from all the rest,
Way up in the clouds so high
Seems as though I can touch the sky.

Oh my home town is the place
Of memories I cannot erase.
Seems as though there'll always be,
One home town for me

Now the people are so friendly,
No matter where they meet—
Oh there's something about their manner,
That surely is hard to beat

My home town is where I'll stay,
And I'll never ever stray away,
Here I'll always settle down
In my old home town.

Robert J. Coquoz

Note: It is my hope that the observations and historical highlights added to the Leadville Ice Palace Booklet shall prove to be interesting and beneficial.

AUTHOR